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"The Original Independent Online Magazine"  
(Since 1987 - Our 11th Year)

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R.F. Mariano, Editor  
STR Publishing, Inc.

Voice: 1-904-292-9222 10am-5pm EST  
FAX: 904-268-2237 24hrs  
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The Publisher, Staff & Editors

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From the Editor's Desk...

This is perhaps the shortest Editorial I've ever undertaken. Its summer here and the Pool, bright and sparkling, beckons... So does the float chair and the Keg of Icehouse that's on Tap. <VBG>

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Please submit ALL letters, rebuttals, articles, reviews, etc., via E-Mail w/attachment to:

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## STReport Headline News

### LATE BREAKING INDUSTRY-WIDE NEWS

Weekly Happenings in the Computer World  
Compiled by: Dana P. Jacobson

#### U.S. Gets Failing Grade For Millennium Bug Fixes

The U.S. government got a failing grade on Tuesday from a key member of Congress for its work to avoid potential "millennium bug" problems and prepare critical computers for the year 2000 and beyond. Overall, the federal government earned an 'F'. Underlying this dismal grade is a disturbing slowdown in the government's rate of progress," said Rep. Stephen Horn, the Republican Congressman from California who has been monitoring the problem.

Horn, Chairman of the House government technology subcommittee, cited the slowdown in the government's progress, despite U.S. President Bill Clinton's earlier appointment of John Koskinen to head a special task force on the matter. Horn said it was now time for Clinton to designate the Year 2000 problem as a national priority. "He's got to make a fireside chat on it," he said. "The president must use the bully pulpit and inform the people of this nation."

Thousands of older government computers recognize the year in dates using only two digits. When the year 2000 arrives they may either shut down or interpret the date as 1900 and give faulty results, a problem widely known as the millennium bug. Clinton's appointment of Koskinen offered a ray of hope earlier, but Horn said Koskinen must get tough on agencies that were behind schedules.

"We've only got six quarters to go," Horn said. "I want him to bang heads when someone's lagging." Horn cited failures at specific agencies, including the Department of Defense and the Department of Transportation. The Defense Department - with 600,000 to 900,000 potential problem computer chips in computers and weapons systems -- at its current rate of progress would not be prepared until two years after the date change, Horn said.

The Federal Aviation Administration, which provides crucial services to the flying public, has also failed to make adequate progress. "Without dramatic improvements, the nation's air traffic could face serious disruptions for an extended period after Dec. 31, 1999," Horn said. While the Social Security Administration has done outstanding work in preparing its computers, Horn said that progress may be "all for naught" if the Treasury Department's Financial Management Service, the agency which issues social security checks, makes no improvements. The Clinton Administration is expected soon to release its own report on the government's progress. But Horn said anything other than a failing grade in that study would be "propaganda."

## Final Internet Domain Name Plan In Two Weeks

The United States is looking at putting out a final proposal on the naming system for the Internet within the next two weeks, a senior government official said today. "We are going to develop a global consensus as to how to have a domain name system," said U.S. Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information Larry Irving.

"In the next couple of weeks we hope to get it out," Irving told reporters. The plan seeks to resolve the controversy over management of some of the Internet's basic functions, including the assignment and registration of names for Web sites. Irving is part of a U.S. delegation in Singapore for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum ministerial meeting for telecommunications and information industries from June 3-5.

He said the meeting would discuss development of the Asia Pacific Information Infrastructure (APII), a network to link member economies, issues related to privacy on the Internet and other communications technologies issues. A Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) for a system to certify manufacturers' communications equipment that would be recognized by importing countries is expected to be finalized during the meeting, another U.S. official said.

Equipment like cellular phones, modems, facsimile machines must meet technological standards of countries in which they are used. Under the existing system, manufacturers must have their products tested and approved by an agency of each country. If the MRA is implemented, manufacturers would be certified by an agency in their own country, reducing costs and increasing efficiency.

The second official, who declined to be identified, expected to have a list of countries which would adopt the system and their expected implementation schedules by the end of the week. If the proposal was accepted, members who sign up could start using the system from July 1999, he said.

On criticism over the implementation of the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) accounting rate benchmarks for international phone traffic, Irving said the FCC was willing to work with any government or institution to reform accounting rates on a global consensus basis. He said it was generally accepted that accounting rates were distorted and had to be driven closer to costs, but no nation other than the United States had made an effort to reform them, nor had the International Telecommunications Union (ITU). Accounting rates are used to decide how much telephone companies pay each other for international calls. Irving said the FCC was aware it needed to treat developing economies differently from developed countries: "Right now benchmark orders still stand. We're still trying, however, to work with anybody who will work with us to come up with solutions that makes sense in a multilateral framework."

The ITU said late last year that Asian carriers would lose more than \$1 billion annually with the imposition of the FCC's accounting rate benchmarks. The FCC wanted to reduce accounting rates to between \$0.16 and \$0.23 per minute across Asia over a period starting January 1, 1998 until January 1, 2002. It estimates that U.S. companies pay \$6 billion

for settling account rates. The FCC had said that if Asian companies did not work towards bringing down accounting rates, U.S. companies would pay only the benchmark rate per minute after the deadline expired.

#### AOL - 44 States Reach Accord on Price Hikes

America Online reached a settlement with 44 state attorneys general, promising to provide clear information to subscribers when the Internet online service provider raises prices or changes services in the future, state officials said Thursday. As part of the settlement, the third between the states and the country's largest online provider, the Dulles, Va.-based company agreed to pay the 44 states a combined \$2.6 million for legal costs and future consumer protection and education efforts, state officials added.

#### Internet Porn Conviction in Germany Shocks Experts

A Bavarian court convicted a former Compuserve manager Thursday of spreading pornography over the Internet, shocking industry experts and raising concerns about the medium's future in Germany. The Munich district court, ignoring a change of heart by the state prosecutor, convicted the former head of the German division of the online service of distributing child pornography and other illegal material over the Internet. "Even on the Internet, there can be no law-free zones," the court said, handing down a two-year suspended sentence to Felix Somm, 34. "The accused is not a victim. He abused the medium." The German government said it would study the court's decision carefully.

#### Welcome to the Lion's Den, Mr. Drudge!

Matt Drudge, the Internet gossip columnist who first posted the Monica Lewinsky sex tale on the Web, ventured into the lion's den Tuesday as the featured attraction at a National Press Club luncheon. "Applause for Matt Drudge in Washington, at the press club - now there's a scandal!" Drudge told an audience of about 200 in what is arguably the clubhouse of American establishment journalism. In his trademark black-banded hat and ill-fitting suit, Drudge said he vividly recalled the moment he sent his account of what has become the White House sex-and-perjury story into cyberspace Jan. 17. "I teared up when I hit the enter button that night because I knew my life would never be the same," Drudge said.

#### Drudge Won't Budge

After one of the most hostile introductions in recent history at the National Press Club, on-line rumor-monger Matt Drudge declared he represents the future of journalism. Washington's media establishment claims Drudge lacks the credentials to be a real journalist, but Drudge replied he has beat journalists at their own game. After all, Drudge claimed Tuesday, he was the first to report Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole had picked Jack Kemp as his running mate; first to

announce to an American audience that Princess Diana had died; and the quickest to report advance word on upcoming films "that even studio execs, some of them, admit they get from me." The Drudgereport.com Web site claims more than 1 million hits a day.

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#### CIVIL LIBERTARIANS REACT TO COMPUSERVE VERDICT

Civil liberties advocates and Internet groups say Thursday's conviction of a former CompuServe manager in Germany for allowing the distribution of cyberporn could set a bad precedent, and stifle online freedom of speech. CompuServe manager Felix Somm was sentenced to a two-year suspended sentence for complicity in 13 cases of pornography distribution. "Even if there's an appeal, there's a significant precedent being set here," says Jerry Berman, executive director of the Center for Democracy and Technology. "It is a great setback for a decentralized, open communications medium." Berman says that the real answer to curbing online porn is "empowering users" by making more filtering software available. (Reuters 29 May 98)

#### ONLINE CHAT INVADES THE CORPORATE OFFICE

Chat rooms and similar technology called instant messaging are finding their way into the workplace, offering an alternative to phone calls and face-to-face meetings. Gregory Jackson, associate provost for information technology at the University of Chicago, uses instant messaging to keep up with his staff, and thinks the technology will find a niche in the business world, too: "It will take time for corporate America to fully embrace it, but this is not one of those things that's going to go away." IBM and America Online both are investing in the technology -- IBM with its recent purchase of Ubique Ltd., which it plans to incorporate into its Lotus Notes software, and AOL with its proposed acquisition of Mirabilis Ltd., maker of ICQ, one of the Web's most popular chat programs. "This is not a move by Lotus into the consumer chat space," says a Lotus spokesman. "We're in this because this is very powerful for the business enterprise." (Wall Street Journal 29 May 98)

#### AT&T ADDS NEW FEE TO PAY FOR "UNIVERSAL SERVICE"

AT&T will begin charging its 80 million residential customers an additional 5% of their total monthly long-distance phone bills as a "Universal Connectivity Charge." The charge will cover AT&T's share of government-mandated subsidies for affordable phone service for low-income people, people living in rural and other high-delivery-cost



areas, and Internet access for schools, libraries and rural health care providers. FCC chairman William Kennard says that AT&T's new fee is unjustified. (AP 28 May 98)

#### TCI PLANS HIGH-SPEED NET FOR SMALL CABLE SYSTEMS

Tele-Communications Inc. is planning to use satellite technology to connect smaller cable systems to cable Internet backbones such as @Home Network. "We're working pretty hard at a strategy for connectivity for high-speed data so that even our smallest systems can be virtually present at a major data hub with access to a high-speed service," says TCI Chairman John Malone. "Probably a year or two from now, the cost will be low enough that even very small systems will be able to afford a digital headend." Malone says that eventually, @Home and Time Warner's RoadRunner service will share a common backbone network, even if the two cable Internet access services don't merge. (Broadcasting & Cable 25 May 98)

#### AOL SETTLES WITH 44 STATES

More than a year after America Online was threatened with lawsuits because of frequently busy phone lines resulting from dramatically higher levels of usage after the adopting a flat-rate pricing plan, the company has agreed to pay \$2.6 million to 44 states to settle complaints alleging that AOL had misled consumers about fees and phone rates. America Online says the settlement is not an admission of wrongdoing. (New York Times 29 May 98)

#### GAME MAKERS DENY LINK BETWEEN VIDEO GAMES AND VIOLENCE

Under criticism for helping to create a climate of violence that may have contributed to tragedies such as the recent school shooting in Springfield, Oregon, leaders of the video game industry are denying a link between video games and violence. Nintendo chairman Howard Lincoln acknowledges that "everybody .- has to be concerned with what's happening with these school shootings" but adds that "I don't think there's any connection with video games and violence." (USA Today 29 May 98)

#### NEC WILL REMOVE EXPLORER ICON ON CORPORATE LAPTOPS

Saying that their corporate customers "don't want a lot of other software on the hard drive," computer manufacturer NEC will leave the icon for Microsoft's Internet Explorer software off of desktop of a new line of NEC laptops, but will provide each user with a CD ROM with both Microsoft Internet Explorer and Netscape's rival Navigator software. Microsoft executive Mark Murray points out that almost all of the program files for Internet Explorer will still be on the hard drive, and says: "It's not clear how hiding the access to product features benefits consumers." (Washington Post 29 May 98)

#### VANDAL INTRUDES ON ACLU SITE ON AMERICA ONLINE

The American Civil Liberties Union site on America Online was violated by a person with a stolen password. The vandal had called AOL's customer service department for help changing an account's password, and the customer service representative failed to verify the caller's identity. AOL has fired the customer service representative and alerted its employees to watch for copycat break-in attempts by other vandals. (Atlanta Journal-Constitution 31 May 98)

#### "LETTER 349, WHERE ARE YOU?"

The U.S. Postal Service is conducting national tests of a system that tracks mail by means of tiny radio transmitters placed inside ordinary-size letters. The radios periodically turn themselves on and

listen for a signal from a sensor; if they hear a sensor they tell it information about their origin, current location, and ultimate destination. The project manager says that, through its ability to pinpoint delivery bottlenecks, the system "shows us very interesting processing things that had been invisible before. What we have here is a system that conveys ownership of problems." (New York Times 31 May 98)

#### SPRINT'S NEW PHONE NETWORK DESIGN

Sprint is redesigning its phone network to increase the company's call-handling capacity 17-fold, cut costs of long-distance calls by 70%, allow Internet surfing at speeds up to 100 times as fast as conventional data modems, and radically change the way service is billed. Instead of conventional telephone circuit switching, which dedicates an entire circuit for the two parties at either end of a phone call, Sprint's system will use packet switching, in which all kinds of transmissions (data as well as voice) will be split up into small chunks of digital bits and sent via a number of parallel routes and recombined only when they reach their final destination. The Sprint system, which it calls ION (Integrated On-demand Network), and will be marketed through Radio Shack's 7,000 retail stores; the service will be available to large corporations later this year and to other businesses and residential consumers by the end of 1999. Customers of the service will be billed not on the number of minutes spent on the phone but on the number of digital bits transmitted in a given month, as tracked by a \$200 meter that a customer will need to purchase. Customers will be able to operate multiple phones, faxes, and computer connections simultaneously, in the same way electricity customers can run numerous electric devices all at the same times. (Wall Street Journal 2 Jun 98)

#### WORLD-WIDE WIRELESS

A new wireless phone that can operate without modification on different continents has been developed by Audiovox and the Bosch Telecom unit of Germany's Robert Bosch G.m.b.H. The phone, which will cost about \$300, lets users make and receive calls in foreign countries as if they were at home; it is based on the digital technology known as global system for mobile communications (GSM), a technology that is the dominant digital wireless technology overseas, especially in Europe. (New York Times 2 Jun 98)

#### NETSCAPE'S "SMART BROWSING"

Netscape will soon be offering a new version of its Navigator software that will allow what it calls "smart browsing." It does this by embedding capabilities such as keyword searching directly into the browser and adding a "smart updating" button in the browser to shorten the process of downloading software upgrades. Like Yahoo!, AOL, and Microsoft, Netscape wants to be a "portal" site for users surfing the World Wide Web; for that reason, it will integrate into the software a way to give computer users quick access to features of Netscape's Netcenter site so that the service will work more like an integrated computer desktop. Netcenter 2.0 will also feature free e-mail and personalized news, stocks and weather. Responding to suggestions that this kind of integration of different software products is exactly what the Justice Department (and Netscape) itself accuses Microsoft of doing, a Netscape executive argues that there's a difference between Netscape and Microsoft: "We are not a monopoly. We are simply making two of our products work together." (Wall Street Journal 1 Jun 98)

#### C-SPAN FOUNDER SAYS HDTV COULD MAKE C-SPAN "GO DARK"

Brian Lamb, founder and chief executive of C-SPAN, the television

cable service that provides commercial-free public affairs programming, says that if the FCC decides later this summer to require cable operators to retransmit all of the digital channels and high-definition TV (HDTV) programming broadcast by local stations, C-SPAN and C-SPAN2 will go dark in millions more American households. In opposition to Lamb, the National Association of Broadcasters says it's crucial for broadcasters to make a return on their government-mandated investment in facilities upgrades necessary for transmission of new digital programming. C-SPAN programming won't provide broadcasters with a source of revenue; home shopping and other commercial offerings will. (USA Today 2 Jun 98)

#### NETOMANIA

Reporting a study of 14 so-called Internet "addicts," psychiatrist Nathan Shapira of the University of Cincinnati says that, on average, the subjects of the study each had had five psychiatric disorders. Shapira thinks that excessive online use should be considered not as a separate addiction but as a disorder of impulse control, in the same category as kleptomania or compulsive shopping. He suggests the problem be called Internetomania or Netomania. (USA Today 1 Jun 98)

#### INDUSTRY LEADERS TO MEET WITH FBI TO ARGUE ABOUT ENCRYPTION

Computer industry leaders including Bill Gates (Microsoft), Jim Barksdale (Netscape), Steve Case (AOL), and Scott McNealy (Sun) will be meeting on June 9 with FBI Director Louis Freeh to try to convince him that the FBI data encryption proposals are unwise. The Bureau has been adamant about the importance of allowing law enforcement officials armed with a court order to unscramble encrypted messages, and the industry and privacy advocates have been just as adamant in maintaining that weakened encryption will harm the industry's global competitiveness and diminish the privacy rights of citizens. (AP 2 Jun 98)

#### XEROX HAS NEW CUSTOM PUBLISHING SERVICE

For niche publishers and publishers that want to keep books in print longer than usually practicable, Xerox has created a Book In Time service that will allow publishers to use Xerox high-end digital printers to produce soft-cover books in small print runs. The printers can be located either at a publisher's site or at a Xerox print facility. (Wall Street Journal 1 Jun 98)

#### OH, WE'RE BETTER THAN THAT. (NEW KUDOS FOR EDUPAGE)

EduPage has received the highest rating and an Open Road Award from a new e-zine review by software designer and Internet consultant Todd Kuipers, who says: "John Gehl and Suzanne Douglas have been producing this award winning newsletter for almost 7 years now. Very professionally done, it is an excellent consolidation of recent technology focused business, political and educational news. I generally read it as soon as it shows up in my inbox. Professional, clear, concise and well-edited. Can these guys do anything wrong? Not much from what I can see. If you want the standard in business technology summaries via e-mail, this is the one to get." For the review in its entirety, see <http://www.sideroad.com/openroad/column1.html>

#### FREPORT CRITICIZES INDUSTRY FOR NOT PROTECTING KIDS

A new report to Congress prepared by the Federal Trade Commission says that the Internet industry is not doing enough to protect children from child pornography and other abuses on the Internet: "Children are told by parents not to talk to strangers whom they meet on the street, but

they are given a contrary message by Web sites that encourage them to interact with strangers in their homes via the Web." On the more general subject of the invasion of privacy, the report found that 85% of 1400 sites studied in March collected personal information but only 14% provide any notice about what they do with the data, and only 2 % have a comprehensive privacy policy. However, industry associations are sending a letter to President Clinton asking for a chance to allow self-regulation to work. (New York Times 4 Jun 98)

#### LUCENT AND MOTOROLA TAKE AIM AT DSP MARKET

Telecommunications giants Lucent and Motorola have formed an alliance to compete against Texas Instruments in the market for digital semiconductor processors (DSP), wh chips used in such products as cellular and wireless phones, handheld computers, digital cameras, and high-definition television. A Motorola executive says the alliance "will enable the creation of advanced digital products that we have not imagined yet." (Austin American-Statesman 3 Jun 98)

#### FTC STAFF NARROWS INTEL ANTITRUST SUIT

Senior staff of the Federal Trade Commission is urging that the Commission restrict itself to making a narrow case in the administrative antitrust suit it is bringing against Intel. Intel is charged with withholding technical information from several customers with whom it was having unrelated legal disputes. (Wall Street Journal 3 Jun 98)

#### ON-DEMAND PRINTING OF OUT-OF-PRINT BOOKS

Lightning Print, a division of the Ingram book wholesaling company in La Vergne, Tenn., says that "books really never have to go out of print again." Using IBM printing equipment and software, Lightning Print will, for \$100-150, set the book up in a digital library, allowing booksellers to order one or more copies at costs expected to be in the range of \$15-20 for a 300-page softcover book. (New York Times 4 Jun 98)

#### XEROX IN IRELAND

Xerox will invest \$270 million on new facilities in Dublin, where it will locate some customer support services for Europe, and Dundalk, near the Northern Island border, where it is planning to build several facilities on 100 acres of land. The investment will generate 2200 jobs in Ireland. (Atlanta Journal-Constitution 3 Jun 98)

#### TELLABS AND CIENA MERGE

Providing new evidence that the consolidation in the telecommunications industry is not restricted to service or content providers, two equipment companies are merging: Tellabs, which makes systems that allow circuits to communicate with one another without being soldered together; and Ciena, which makes systems that allow long-distance carriers to increase their network capacity without placing new cables in the ground. The new company will retain the Tellabs name. (New York Times 3 Jun 98)

#### HYUNDAI GOES IT ALONE IN CUTTING CHIP PRODUCTION

The Japanese companies NEC, Toshiba, Hitachi and Fujitsu have all decided not to follow the lead of Korea's Hyundai Corporation in its plan to cut back on 64-megabit DRAM production. Hyundai decided to reduce production because a global glut has caused prices to drop precipitously. DRAM ( dynamic random access memory) chips are crucial components in advanced personal computers. (Reuters/San Jose Mercury News 4 Jun 98)

#### DRUDGE SURVIVES PRESS CLUB GAUNTLET

Howard Kurtz, Washington Post news media analyst, says that Internet columnist Matt Drudge "seemed to win over" much of the initially hostile National Press Club audience he addressed this week. At one point, Drudge, who is often described as a "cybergossip," was asked to justify his publishing of "unfounded allegations"; he responded by teasing the mainstream media with, in Kurtz's words, "a tale involving the Weekly Standard, which recently settled a libel suit; CNN and NBC, which were sued by Richard Jewell, the vindicated Olympic bombing suspect; and the Wall Street Journal, which lost a libel suit in Texas. 'It's creative enough for an in-depth piece in the New Republic, but I fear people would think it's made up,' he said, referring to the fabrications by fired associate editor Stephen Glass. The room erupted in applause, the first of several occasions on which drew either laughter or scattered clapping." (Washington Post 6 Jun 98)

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The Linux Advocate  
Column #13  
June 4th, 1998  
by Scott Dowdle  
dowdle@icstech.com

#### LOGIN:

Look mom... two columns in two weeks. Yeah! :) Wow, a lot has been going on this past week... so much I thought I better get busy writing another column or I was going to get way behind. As I write this, I'm looking over the latest edition of the Linux Weekly News (<http://lwn.net>) and Slashdot (<http://slashdot.org>) and there is just so much going on, I'm not sure where to start.

I wanted to comment about actually getting some feedback email from a fellow named Bob Carpenter who was looking for some Personal Information Management software for Linux. I think I steered him in the right direction.

#### News:

Item #1: 4th Annual Linux Expo - Although I failed to mention it last column, the 4th annual Linux Expo was held May 28-30, 1998 at the Bryan University Center, Duke University, Durham, NC. Everyone who is anyone attended the event and Linus Torvalds himself was the keynote speaker. His speech started off... Hello, I'm Linus Torvalds and I am your god. Linus is a riot when he gives a public presentation. I hope a video tape is made publicly available from the show so that those who didn't make it (namely ME) can get a more realistic idea of what was missed. The show was divided up into three main points of interest: 1) Technical Presentations, 2) Business Presentations, and 3) Linux vendor exhibits.... with plenty of leisurely activities in the after-hours and even an editor paintball war (vi vs. emacs). I wish I could have gone... but since I didn't, I'll have to rely on online info.

Authoritative information about the show (all pre-show info so far) may be found at the following URL:

<http://www.linuxexpo.org>

The Slashdot guys went to the show and Rob Malda (aka CmdrTaco) posted a report of his experience on Slashdot at the following URL:

<http://slashdot.org/features/9805311650242.shtml>

The Linux Weekly News folks also attended the show and posted timely reports in their daily updates section until a new edition of LWN was published on June 4th where they made a special sub-section on their page to cover the LinuxExpo. It can be found at the following URL:

<http://lwn.net/980604/exposum.html>

Hmmm, I don't know if I'll ever stop promoting Slashdot and Linux Weekly News here in Linux Advocate so just get used to it. :)

I thought about just dumping the relevant contents the column but decided that the complete information direct from the sources via an Internet hyperlink would be better.

Why waste column space duplicating information?

Photos from Linux Expo may be found at the following URLs:

<http://annabelle.ucg.ie/expo/>

<http://www4.ncsu.edu/~bdwilso2/photos/expo/>

<http://www.gnome.org/photos/>

<http://www.labs.redhat.com/expo.shtml>

<http://www.clark.net/pub/mike911/expopics.html>

As is evident from the Slashdot and LWN coverage of the event and the photos also made available (you DID check out those URLs, right?) ONE fact is very obvious to me... that the Linux community is very laid back, respectful of its members, and open... basically a VERY FRIENDLY place to be. As most STR readers will remember, the personal computer industry was started by hackers in their basements and garages. For many years now the market has been dominated by suits and millionaires (and a few billionaires) with innovation and sincerity long fallen to the wayside... it is very refreshing to be a member of the Linux community! The Open Source movement has been compared to the "hippies" of the 60's and the Love and Flower Power sentiment from that era... applied to the computer industry. What a unique comparison... cool, right on... groovy... err, I mean... nevermind. :)

Item #2: Unix98 Standard and Linux? - To be honest, I haven't done enough reading about this topic but I thought it noteworthy and didn't want to ignore it. It was the lead story on LWN so check it out over there.

<http://lwn.net>

Item #3: Linux 2.0.34 released - With Linus concentrating on the 2.1.x kernel hoping to get 2.2.0 out sometime in July or August, 2.0.34 has been a long time coming.

Alan Cox has been the primary maintainer of updates to 2.0.3x and

after several patches to 2.0.33 (sixteen I think), 2.0.34 has finally been released... not that it's that big of a deal... I'm still running 2.0.32 on my machine because I've been too lazy to upgrade. :) Anyway, 2.0.34 can be found at the usual place:

<ftp://ftp.kernel.org>

Item #4: Linux Standard Base - While at the LinuxExpo this past weekend there was a meeting of Linux International where Bruce Perens (formerly of Debian Linux fame) proposed a Linux Standard Base or LSB for short. The goal if a LSB agreement is to insure that there is an underlying compatibility between all of the various Linux distributions that would enable a commercial software vendor to insure that their software will run on all distributions without having to go through any additional, distribution specific challenges. Traditionally, many commercial software packages have been co-ordinated and/or marketed by different distribution makers. For example, Caldera was responsible for Wabi, StarOffice (in Northern America), and WordPerfect Internet Office Suite... and Red Hat was responsible for ApplixWare, TriTeal CDE, etc. The various distributions were close enough that most applications would run without much work from the end user who might have to update a system library or handle the software installation in a slightly different way than its primary target distribution. The LSB, once completely designed and implemented, should totally take care of this minor problem. The LWN has a sub-page dedicated to this topic which can be found at the following URL:

<http://lwn.net/980604/lsb.html>

Item #5: TechWeb spotlights Open Source movement - This can be found at the following URL:

<http://www.cmpnet.com/special/0598spotlight.html>

There are links to several related stories but I've included two of them below. Linus Torvalds - profile of and interview (text and RealAudio)

<http://www.techweb.com/internet/profile/ltorvalds/profile>

Tim O'Reilly - profile and an interview (text and RealAudio)

<http://www.techweb.com/internet/profile/toreilly/profile>

Item #6: Linux Draws Corporate Backers - Yet another article on TechWeb. Check it out at the following URL:

<http://www.techweb.com/wire/story/TWB19980601S0002?st.ne.fd.mnaw>

Item #7: Microsoft's Supersite - The real goal? It appears that Microsoft has e-commerce as their ultimate goal in the browser war. Check out the following URL for more info:

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/chronicle/archive/1998/05/26/BU76071.DTL>

Item #8: Boston Globe columnist decides to try Linux for a month - Hiawatha Bray from the Boston Globe staff has pledged to use Linux for a month and to report on his experience. This is very similar to C|Net Radio's Project Heresy mentioned last column. You can find his pledge



at the following URL:

[http://www.boston.com:80/dailyglobe/globehtml/148/Viva\\_la\\_revolution.htm](http://www.boston.com:80/dailyglobe/globehtml/148/Viva_la_revolution.htm)

Mr. Bray says he will document his experience on his personal homepage but as of yet, no Linux info has been posted. His homepage may be found at the following URL:

<http://www.monitortan.com> I'll keep an eye on it and post any updates as they become available.

Item #9: SoftWindows 95 for Unix - Insignia has produced a product called SoftWindows 95 for various flavors of Unix. Some readers may already be familiar with or using previous SoftWindows products for the Macintosh. SoftWindows 95 offers the ability to run Microsoft Windows 95 software on top of Unix... like any other program. SoftWindows is similar to SunSoft's WABI except it is up-to-date and can run the latest Windows 95/98 software including even the multimedia heavy ones. So far, they haven't announced a Linux version but one would only make sense considering that a recent survey pegged Linux as holding 14% (and growing rapidly) of the overall Unix marketshare. In fact, partially validated rumors (is that a new phrase) have been noted by both Insignia and Red Hat Software. I'd expect an announcement in the near future.

Information about SoftWindows 95 can be found at the following URL:

<http://www.insignia.com/SoftWindows/UNIX/Products/>

Personally, I'm not sure if I'd like to see Windows software running on Linux as it might duplicate what I call the OS/2 affect... where the development of native OS software takes a back seat to running Windows applications... and need I mention the freely available Wine?

#### Spotlight: Hardware designed around Linux

As observed at the Linux Expo, several vendors are making products specifically designed around Linux. I'm not talking about vendors who have taken off-the-shelf parts and produced Linux Intel, Sparc, and/or Alpha machines with Linux pre-installed... those have been around for some time now. I'm talking about custom engineered projects that utilize Linux in a new way... with the vendor doing custom Linux development/porting to meet the needs of the new platform they are creating. I have three devices in mind: 1) Corel Computer's Netwinder, 2) Digital Equipment Corp's Itsy, and 3) Cobalt Microserver Inc.'s Cube. What follows is a brief description of each product and URLs with authoritative information.

#### Corel Computer Netwinder -

Corel is in the final stages of producing a network computer line consisting of three models (\$300, \$700, and \$1,200) that are constructed around Linux. They are based on the StrongArm processor from DEC which is an extremely low-power consumption RISC chip. On the low end, the Netwinder is a fabulous Xterminal with extras.

Check out the following URLs for more info on the Netwinder.

[http://www.corelcomputer.com/products/linux\\_products.htm](http://www.corelcomputer.com/products/linux_products.htm)

<http://www.netwinder.org><http://www.netwinder.org/>

Netwinder technical specifications can be found at the following URL:

<http://www.netwinder.org/specs.html>

DEC Itsy -

Digital Equipment Corp has produced a VERY POWERFUL plamtop hybrid with no specific target market as of yet. The Itsy is a modern machine also designed around the StrongArm processor and Linux.

The Itsy is in proto-type stages now and you can find more information at the following URL:

<http://www.research.digital.com/wrl/itsy/>

An online slideshow presentation may be found at the following URL:

<http://www.research.digital.com/wrl/itsy/talk/sld001.htm>

Cobalt Qube Microserver - The Qube is a 7.75"

x 7.75" x 7.75" box that is truly a plug-and-play Internet/Intranet server with decent performance at a very low price (about \$1,200). It wasn't designed to accommodate a monitor, nor a keyboard or mouse. It's simple... you plug in the power cord into an outlet, you plug in a network cable from your network, you push some hardware buttons on the back of the machine to set it's IP address and then you TURN IT ON. After a minute or two for it to boot, you access it from any WWW browser on your network and go through a series of setup screens as WWW forms. Oddly enough, the Qube is a Linux box based on the SGI MIPS processor that has been specially pre-configured with WWW based administration. The Qube offers the full suite of Internet based server applications: WWW, FTP, email, shell account, etc. The people at Cobalt have put a lot of work into customizing and pre-configuring Linux so that the Qube is truly a turnkey device. The Qube does for TCP/IP server devices what WebTV does for TCP/IP clients... it is a true server appliance except that since the Qube uses Linux, it doesn't sacrifice anything in the way of software features.

Information about the Qube can be found at the following URL:

<http://www.cobaltmicro.com/>

Technical Specs can be found at the following URL:

<http://www.cobaltmicro.com/products/technical.html>

A review of Qube Microserver:

<http://www.zdnet.com/pcweek/opinion/0223/23mach.html>

An article about Cobalt Qube environment going open source can be found at the following URL:

<http://slashdot.org/articles/9806021139226.shtml>

LOGOUT:

Hmmm, I hope I did a decent job of keeping STR's readers up to date with the Linux happenings this past week. I would like to solicit help from STR's reader base to aid me in Linux coverage. It would be nice to have a column of software updates which would list what new software came out this week (<http://freshmeat.net> is a great resource), or a software catalog review column which highlights a few software packages each week, or a column that goes into Linux games... or a column that covers how businesses around the world are putting Linux to use... etc, etc, etc. I just can't do it all. Oh, I'm not complaining: I just see the potentials and how the computing community could be better served by offering more concrete examples of Linux IN ACTION.

I'm only touching the tip of the iceberg in a rather boring way with my news coverage. Only after more readers have gotten into the Linux community will they be more interested in this Linux Advocate column... and I understand that.

Please send comments to [dowdle@icstech.com](mailto:dowdle@icstech.com)

See you next time - Scott Dowdle

Taking Another Look!

White House Internet adviser sees deregulation A senior adviser to President Clinton said the growth of the Internet will lead to the deregulation of the telecommunications and broadcast industries as the businesses converge. Internet guru Ira Magaziner said that the reasons for regulating the telecommunications and broadcast industries will disappear as the technologies merge with the advent of the Internet. "The private sector needs to lead in this new environment, not the government," Magaziner told about 400 students and faculty members at a Harvard University conference on the Internet and society. Telephone companies and cable operators are currently battling using competing technologies to bring high-speed Internet connections to homes and businesses. Eventually, the same technologies will allow phone companies to offer TV programs and cable companies to offer phone service.

High-tech industry to meet with FBI over encryption

FBI director Louis Freeh and other top U.S. law enforcers will meet high-technology industry executives, including Microsoft's Bill Gates, next week to discuss regulation of computer data-scrambling products, FBI and industry officials said. The June 9 meeting in Washington comes amid negotiations between the industry and the Clinton administration over encryption policy and as Congress considers several bills to relax strict U.S. export rules on the technology. In addition to Gates, Netscape's CEO Jim Barksdale and Novell's Chairman Eric Schmidt are among those expected to attend the meeting organized by Democratic Sen. Dianne Feinstein of California, the officials said.

World Wide Web inventor, others get 'genius grants'

The founder of the World Wide Web was among 29 people awarded a total of \$8.5 million in no-strings-attached "genius grants" Monday. Tim Berners-Lee, 43, of Cambridge, Mass., won \$270,000 from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, which hailed him for pioneering

"a revolutionary communications system requiring minimal technical understanding." Berners-Lee is director of the World Wide Web Consortium, a nonprofit, member-sponsored organization, and a principal research scientist at the Laboratory for Computer Science at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In addition to proposing the initial idea for the Web, he designed the uniform resource locator (URL) protocol that assigns addresses to individual sites.

#### Iran to put Khomeini's works on Internet

Iran plans to put the complete works of its late spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini on the Internet, an Iranian official said Monday. Hamid Ansari, head of an institute publishing Khomeini's writings, said the late leader's 210 works in Persian and 107 of his texts translated into 16 languages would be made available on the web, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported. Besides purely religious works, Khomeini has theoretical writings on Shi'ite Islam's views on politics, which formed the basis of the clergy-dominated government set up after Iran's 1979 Islamic revolution. Several poems by the late revolutionary leader have also been published since his death.

#### Motorola, Lucent in chip design alliance

Motorola Inc. and Lucent Technologies Inc. said they would collaborate to design next-generation digital signal processor technology, to create chips used in many wireless and communications devices. Under the deal, Motorola and Lucent will work together to develop designs for new digital signal processor technologies and cross-license their existing digital signal processor designs. The alliance will accelerate development of advanced processors for the communications, transportation and consumer electronics industries, Motorola and Lucent said. The companies will create a joint design center, with about 100 designers, in the Atlanta area called Star\*Core.

#### Taiwan PC firms ignore antitrust suit, go for Win98

Taiwan computer firms plan to embrace Microsoft Corp's Windows 98 operating system, shrugging off a U.S. antitrust suit brought against the U.S. giant, suppliers said on Wednesday. Taiwan's top PC makers - including global brand Acer Inc. - have no hesitation about going with Windows 98, despite a multibillion-dollar row over its built-in Internet browser. "The Win95 operating system software is the most popular in Taiwan, and definitely we will install the new (Win98) system shortly after it hits the market," Acer product specialist Henry Yu said.

#### UAE says solves its millennium bug problem

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) said it had succeeded in solving the millennium bug problem at all state offices which it had feared would disrupt older computer programs by the end of the century. "The (UAE) cabinet had been informed of the success which was achieved on May 18," Minister of Finance and Industry Mohammad Khalfan bin Kharbash said in remarks carried by local newspapers Wednesday. Kharbash said the solution would solve the millennium bug for all UAE ministries and federal establishments. He gave no further details. (Reuters)

#### U.S. industry lagging on Internet privacy protection

Hundreds of companies are collecting personal information about

consumers on Internet sites and, without telling them, selling the data, according to a government survey to be released Thursday that is likely to lead to new privacy protections. But the report's dire assessment also prompted a dozen high-tech trade groups Wednesday to issue a wide-ranging voluntary privacy policy, the latest attempt by industry to head off new government regulations. The survey, conducted by the Federal Trade Commission, delivers a bleak assessment of the Clinton administration's policy of allowing Internet companies to police privacy themselves, people familiar with the report said.

#### Drudge won't budge

After one of the most hostile introductions in recent history at the National Press Club, on-line rumor-monger Matt Drudge declared he represents the future of journalism. Washington's media establishment claims Drudge lacks the credentials to be a real journalist, but Drudge replied he has beat journalists at their own game. After all, Drudge claimed Tuesday, he was the first to report Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole had picked Jack Kemp as his running mate; first to announce to an American audience that Princess Diana had died; and the quickest to report advance word on upcoming films "that even studio execs, some of them, admit they get from me." The Drudgereport.com Web site claims more than 1 million hits a day.

#### Microsoft sees no damage from lawsuits

The Justice Department suit against Microsoft Corp. will have no "material adverse impact" on the company's financial position, Microsoft said in a document filed with the federal government Wednesday. In an amended quarterly report filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission - known as a 10-q - the company laid out the latest on the Justice Department's broad antitrust suit against it, including the dates briefs are due and the Sept. 8 date for the trial. It also reviewed parallel actions by 20 state attorneys general. "Management currently believes that resolving these matters will not have a material adverse impact on the company's financial position or its results of operations," Microsoft said. (Reuters)

#### Clinton to attack Internet access gap

President Clinton will announce new initiatives Friday to close the "digital divide" by bringing Internet access to children in poor inner city and rural areas, White House officials said Thursday. Clinton, at a commencement speech at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, will also tout the Internet as an engine of U.S. economic growth, they said, but gave no details of the proposals. The president is also expected to come to the defense of a multibillion dollar federal subsidy program to connect schools and libraries to the Internet, that has come under attack from some members of Congress.

#### FTC to vote on Intel suit Monday

The Federal Trade Commission set a meeting Thursday for June 8 to vote on antitrust action against Intel Corp., the dominant producer of personal computer microprocessors. The FTC's official "sunshine phone" recorded message announced the meeting had been set to consider "enforcement action." A source said the five commissioners would vote early next week on the Intel matter. The FTC will vote on whether to bring a suit alleging Intel illegally misused monopoly power to force others to give up their trade secrets and cooperate with Intel. The

case is being considered as the Justice Department and 20 states are pursuing major antitrust actions against Microsoft Corp. which together with Intel dominates the computer industry.

Lawmakers ask FCC to halt Internet subsidy program

Four powerful U.S. lawmakers warned the Federal Communications Commission Thursday to halt a multibillion-dollar subsidy program that helps schools and libraries connect to the Internet. In an unusual display of bipartisanship, the Republican chairmen and top Democrats on both the Senate and House Commerce committees sent a letter to FCC chairman William Kennard asking him to suspend the program, which is funded mostly by long-distance phone companies. In the past week, AT&T Corp. and MCI Communications Corp. have said they would add surcharges of at least 5% to long-distance calls to pay for their share of the program and longstanding subsidies that support basic phone service in low-income and rural areas.

U.S. fears Year 2000 bug could spook Russian forces

The U.S. is drawing up plans to keep Russia and others from being spooked into millennium bug-related "nightmare" military scenarios, a top Pentagon official said Thursday. In a stark warning about the Year 2000 computer glitch threat, Deputy Defense Secretary John Hamre cited a need to calm Russian nuclear forces in particular if the "bug" caused their computers to crash, as many systems may fail worldwide. He told the Senate Armed Services Committee cash-strapped Russian forces were relying more and more on nuclear weapons "as a safeguard for their national security... And their early warning system is fragile."

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All articles submitted to STReport for publication must be sent in the following format. Please use the format requested. Any files received that do not conform will not be used. The article must be in an importable word processor format for Word 6.0 and/or Word Perfect(c). The margins are .05" left and 1.0" Monospaced fonts are not to be used. Please use proportional fonting only and at Twelve (12) points.

No Indenting on any paragraphs!!  
No Indenting of any lines or "special gimmicks"  
No underlining!

Columns shall be achieved through the use of tabs only. Or, columns in Word or Word Perfect format. Do NOT, under any circumstances, use the space bar. Most of all... PLEASE! No ASCII "ART"!!

There is no limits as to size, articles may be split into two if lengthy Actual Artwork should be in GIF, PCX, JPG, TIF, BMP, WMF file formats Artwork (pictures, graphs, charts, etc.) should be sent along with the article separately

Please use a single font in an article. TTF Times New Roman 12pt. is preferred. (VERY Strong Hint)

If there are any questions please use either E-Mail or call. On another note, the ASCII version of STReport has reached the "end of the

line" As the major Online Services moved away from ASCII. So has STReport. All in the name of progress and improved readability. The amount of reader mail expressing a preference for HTML as opposed to our Adobe PDF enhanced issue is running approximately 11 to 1 over the PDF edition. Cited are size, graphic quality and speed of download.

I'm elated that requests for our issues in HTML far outnumber PDF. So PDF too, like ascii, is gone. HTML is now a reality. On our web download page is a selection for HTML (Read or Download). As you can see, STReport will not be caught in the old, worn out "downward compatibility dodge" we must move forward. Many grateful thanks in advance for your enthusiastic co-operation and input.

Ralph F. Mariano, Editor  
rmariano@streport.com  
STReport International Online Magazine

Classics & Gaming Section  
Editor Dana P. Jacobson  
dpj@streport.com

From the Atari Editor's Desk "Saying it like it is!"

It's always "one of those weeks!" after going back to work from a vacation. Walk into the office to stacks of STUFF on your desk and all kinds of notes requesting immediate response. It's never much fun. It's Friday and I'm finally getting caught up enough to have a normal hectic day. But, the weekend is almost here and plenty to look forward to again. Our pool is just about opened. Discovered that the pump was cracked and there was nothing to be done to save it. So, once that's replaced, we can run the filter on the pool and clean up the water. Should be interesting. I'm looking forward to using the pool for relief from some typical New England scorchers.

The "veggie" garden is coming along fine - the plants have grown quite a bit since planting. Even some of the flowers that we planted in early spring but we thought died have come back! Things are looking up in the external household! Still a few more tasks to undertake and then it's time to re-visit the inside! Ahhhh, I'm enjoying this homeowner's life!

Until next time...

Gaming Section

'Best of 1997!'  
Psygnosis Signs!  
Sony Does Disney!  
Extreme Racing!  
Violent Games Influence Violence?  
And much more!

Industry News STR Game Console NewsFile - The Latest Gaming News!

The 7th Annual GamePro Readers' Choice Awards

ATLANTA, May 29 /PRNewswire/ -- Interactive gaming enthusiasts throughout the country have been eagerly waiting to see if their favorite games for 1997 are sure winners. After votes were in and tabulated, GamePro, the world's largest multiplatform gaming magazine, announced the winners of The 7th Annual GamePro Readers' Choice Awards. The awards ceremony was held last evening in IDG Games Media Group's booth at E3 where representatives of the winning games were presented with an award by John Rousseau, President and CEO of IDG Games Media Group, and Wes Nihei, Vice President and Editor-in-Chief of GamePro magazine.

GamePro readers were asked to pick their favorite games in various categories in the February issue of GamePro magazine and on GamePro's Web site (<http://www.gamepro.com>) during the month of February. The editors of GamePro magazine voted on two additional categories -- Best Game of the Year and Most Innovative Game of the Year.

The winners are:

Best Action/Adventure Game

Tomb Raider II by Eidos Interactive for the PlayStation

Best Fighting Game

WCW vs. NWO: World Tour by THQ, Inc. for the Nintendo 64

Best Driving/Racing Game

Diddy Kong Racing by Nintendo of America, Inc. for the Nintendo 64

Best Vehicle Shooter

StarFox 64 by Nintendo of America, Inc. for the Nintendo 64

Best Corridor Shooter

GoldenEye 007 by Nintendo of America, Inc. for the Nintendo 64

Best Role-Playing Game

Final Fantasy VII by Sony Computer Entertainment America for the PlayStation

Best Sports Game

NFL GameDay '98 by Sony Computer Entertainment America for the PlayStation

Best Puzzle/Strategy Game

Bomberman 64 by Nintendo of America, Inc. for the Nintendo 64

Best Arcade Game

Mortal Kombat 4 by Midway Games, Inc.

Best Console Game Of The Year

Final Fantasy VII by Sony Computer Entertainment America for the PlayStation

Best Game Of The Year

GoldenEye 007 by Nintendo of America, Inc. for the Nintendo 64

Most Innovative Game Of The Year

PaRappa the Rapper by Sony Computer Entertainment America for the PlayStation



The GamePro Readers' Choice Awards is in its seventh year, solidifying GamePro magazine's loyal readership and gamers' trust in a name that stands for quality information about interactive gaming.

"Seven years ago, we decided to give GamePro readers a voice-a chance to speak to the industry about the games they love most," says Wes Nihei, Editor-in-Chief of GamePro magazine. "The GamePro Readers' Choice Awards is the only industry event representing the true judges of what makes a great game-the interactive gaming enthusiast."

#### Psygnosis Ltd. Licenses Three Microsoft Games for PSX

FOSTER CITY, CALIF. (May 29) BUSINESS WIRE - May 29, 1998 - Psygnosis Limited, the largest entertainment software developer in Europe, has signed an agreement to license and publish three of Microsoft's PC games for the PlayStation(R) game console. The titles, Age of Empires (tm), Urban Assault(tm) and Motocross Madness(tm) will be co-branded with the Microsoft and Psygnosis logos. "We're excited to deliver some of our great games to PlayStation gamers," commented Ed Fries, general manager of Microsoft's Games Group. "With 15 years of experience as a multi-platform game developer and publisher, Psygnosis is uniquely suited to extend our top brands into the console market." Psygnosis has a thorough understanding of PC sensibilities, having developed titles for the PC market since 1983 while also commanding the experience necessary to translate a PC design into a console game. Psygnosis has published hit titles for the PlayStation game console since the system's debut in 1995. "Our relationship with Microsoft provides us with an opportunity to market Microsoft's product to an audience of gamers eager to play today's best games," commented Ian Hetherington, president and founder of Psygnosis, Ltd. Engineering Microsoft's PC games for PlayStation game console versions will take place in Psygnosis' studios around the world, under the direction of Graham Stafford, Psygnosis Director of Product Planning. "Psygnosis will then use its global publishing strength to coordinate a series of worldwide organized launches by all eight publishing divisions," added Nick Garnell, Psygnosis Director of Worldwide Publishing. Age of Empires, the best-selling PC strategy game since its release in Sept. 1997 (PC data), is an epic, real-time strategy game that spans 10,000 years. It was developed by Ensemble Studios. Urban Assault, currently in development by Terra Tools, is an innovative action title that combines strategic elements as game players struggle to bring Earth back from the brink of destruction. The PC version of the game is slated for release in summer 1998. The PC version of Motocross Madness, slated for release in fall 1998, is a stunt riding and racing title being developed by Rainbow Studios.

#### Sony To Publish PSX Titles For Disney Jun 1, 1998

(MULTIMEDIA WIRE, Vol. 5, No. 104) -- ATLANTA - Sony Computer Entertainment will publish three Disney titles on PlayStation in the US and more than four titles in Europe and elsewhere, the companies said Friday. Sony has a minimum six-month, or one Christmas season, exclusive license to the properties. Under the agreement, Sony will publish A Bug's Life simultaneously with the release of the movie, which will debut in Q4 in the US and early next year in Europe and other 'PAL territories.' A Bug's Life comes from Pixar, the maker of "Toy Story." Sony will also publish Tarzan and

another unnamed Disney title. Disney Interactive VP of sales and marketing Tim Zuckert wouldn't be specific on marketing budgets or sales forecasts for the titles, saying merely, "Sony will provide a level of support consistent with their expectations for best-selling titles." Sony will also publish and distribute PSX sports titles from Disney's newly launched ESPN Digital in Europe and other PAL territories, while Disney will handle distribution in North America.

Midway Shifts Into High Gear With Development of Extreme Racing The high-speed action of Midway Home Entertainment's San Francisco Rush: Extreme Racing is peeling out of San Francisco and screeching onto new tracks across the country. Midway, one of the industry's most prestigious entertainment software publishers, today announced it is developing Rush 2: Extreme Racing USA, the sequel to the critically-acclaimed, chart-topping San Francisco Rush: Extreme Racing. Rush 2 is expected to be available for the Nintendo(R) 64 and PC platform this winter. "The same team that threw drivers into the helter skelter of San Francisco's roadways is creating yet another exhilarating racing experience with Rush 2," said Paula Cook, director of marketing at Midway Home Entertainment. "Rush 2 will be a must-buy for owners of San Francisco Rush: Extreme Racing as well as new buyers because of the extensive enhancements with new tracks, cities and gameplay options." Gamers will face twelve new tracks in Rush 2 and maneuver through the congested streets of upper and lower Manhattan, the rain-slicked roads of Seattle, and the neon-lit boulevards of Las Vegas. Players can also cruise Los Angeles, Hawaii, Alcatraz, two speedway loop tracks and two stunt tracks. Eight new cars will join the eleven existing vehicles, each with tighter car handling, more severe collision damage, more sensitive braking capabilities and all-new secrets to unlock. The sequel also boasts booming original music and multiple camera views. The highly successful San Francisco Rush: Extreme Racing was released last year for both Nintendo 64 and the PlayStation(R) game console. The critical raves were widespread, with GamePro describing it as "a non-stop, thrill-a-minute roller-coaster ride..." and Ultra Game Players exclaiming that it "looks to be the game that puts the fun back in Nintendo 64 gaming." San Francisco Rush was nominated for several industry awards and was named both the "Best Nintendo 64 Game" and the "Best Racing Game" in 1997 by Ultra Game Players.

Tear Up the Tracks and Dust the Competition With Off Road Challenge(TM) Get ready for an outrageous 4x4 off-road experience with Midway Home Entertainment's Off Road Challenge(TM) for the Nintendo(R) 64. Off Road Challenge, endorsed by racer Ivan Stewart, offers an interactive 3D racing experience with Rumble Pak(TM) compatibility, six tracks, four trucks and a chance to race in realistic environments and through varied weather conditions. Based on the original coin operated game, a Midway's Off Road Challenge for the Nintendo 64 boasts three original tracks and is expected to be available nationwide in June. "Off Road Challenge is a racing favorite in the arcades, and we're adding even more spark to the home version with new tracks and Rumble Pak compatibility," said Paula Cook, director of marketing at Midway Home Entertainment. "Having Ivan Stewart endorse the game is a true testament to the adrenaline rush experienced while playing the game." Players will feel every bump, twist and turn of Off Road Challenge's six serpentine circuits. The tracks range from beginner to expert and traverse the country's best back road racing settings including Baja, El Paso, Mojave and more. As players race, they can pick up power-ups to boost speed, as well as cash to add features to their truck in the speed shop between races. Independent suspension and powerslides make interaction between the trucks and environments of snow, sand, water, asphalt, rocks and mud amazingly realistic. Midway's Off Road Challenge utilizes the Nintendo

64's four player split screen capability. Players have four trucks to select from, as well as four secret trucks which can be found along the way. Players can rip up the road in single player mode, go head-to-head in two player, or race to place in circuit mode. Video Game Industry Denies Any Blame for Shootings The rash of shootings in U.S. high schools this year cannot be blamed on depictions of violence in video games, which may even have a "cathartic" effect on teenagers who play them, an industry spokesman said Thursday. Douglas Lowenstein, president of the Interactive Digital Software Association, said, "... there is absolutely no basis for making the leap that the presence of video games is a factor in these premeditated acts, in these murders ... there is evidence the games have a cathartic effect. To isolate any form of entertainment as the agent is unsubstantiated and irresponsible." President Clinton suggested Saturday children were being introduced to violence at an early age by playing electronic games and watching television and movies. Girls Find Violent Video Games Boring, Panel Says Video game industry leaders said Friday they have long known boys enjoy playing violent, gory video games, but now they are beginning to understand why girls do not enjoy them. "Girls didn't think they were far too violent," said Laura Groppe, president of Girl Games Inc. of Austin, Texas. "Girls just thought they were boring. Dying and starting over again seemed somewhat pointless to them." Industry leaders attending the annual Electronic Entertainment Expo in Atlanta said they were puzzled that girls avoided violent videos in droves and began to research the subject. Groppe said researchers at Girl Games learned girls want videos that seem relevant to their lives.

Gaming Online STR InfoFile - Online Users Growl & Purr!

AtariNews: On The Prowl  
06/02/98

LATEST HEADLINES:  
WELCOME TO THE LIST

Welcome to the new AtariNews: On The Prowl! If you have not subscribed to this list, you have been added to this list because you have been on the petition to Telegames list. If you were previously on the AtariNews list, then I would like to welcome you to the new format. This list will offer simple news updates about Atari. It also offers a means by which all Atari fans can announce significant items of interest, such as new products and issues of fanzines or newsletters, etc. It is a goal to be as accurate as possible, and reach all Atari fans. You can expect to receive this newsletter in a timely manner, especially when there is very important news. If you receive this update more than once, please inform me. To submit news, send it to [brionhol@aol.com](mailto:brionhol@aol.com).

ATARI KEYCHAINS AT A STORE NEAR YOU!

New LCD keychain game versions of Joust, Kaboom!, and Defender have been sighted at stores, courtesy of Tiger Electronics. Retail price is \$9.95. If you've been looking for a fun diversion, one of these classics may be for you!

JAGUAR OVERLAYS UPDATE

Tony Price ([mfmurdock@earthlink.net](mailto:mfmurdock@earthlink.net)) has confirmed that he will be

producing an overlay for the newly released Worms game for the Jaguar. Also, the Zero 5 overlay has a button in the wrong place. Please contact Tony if you picked up one of these overlays and would like a replacement. <http://home.earthlink.net/~mfmurdock/jaguar/jaguar.htm>

#### NEW CLASSICS ON THE LYNX?

Rumor has it that at least one of the new Lynx games slated for 1998 will be an update of a classic. More details soon. JOIN THE CORE No, this isn't a military ad -- Paul Oswood <paulo@plethora.net> has designed a new game for the Atari 2600 named "The Core." The game will be released in cart form this summer, and has an interesting claim to fame: it uses the 2600 driving controllers for a Tempest-esque experience! The retail price of \$25 includes the cart with a color label, a color manual, a B&W box, and shipping in North America. Check out Paul's own description of the game and a screen shot at: <http://www.plethora.net/~paulo/thecore.html>

#### THE PETITION TO HASBRO

The petition to Hasbro needs more names. If you would like to try to get Hasbro to support the Jaguar and Lynx, then please sign this petition. There are currently 80 names on the petition. <http://www.geocities.com/timesquare/arcade/8063>

#### FEEL LIKE CHATTING?

Join your fellow Jaguar and Lynx fans at Jaguar Interactive, one of the best Atari-related message boards around! It can be found at: <http://atarihq.com/interactive/>

Special thanks to Atari HQ for hosting the site!  
Send any comments or submissions for "AtariNews: On The Prowl" to Brian Gudzevich (Editor) at: [Brionhold@aol.com](mailto:Brionhold@aol.com)

Sponsoring web sites:  
-The Atarian Atmosphere:  
<http://www.geocities.com/timesquare/arcade/8063>

-The Jaguar's Domain: <http://www.millcomm.com/~forhan/jaguar.html>

ONLINE WEEKLY STReport OnLine      The wires are a hummin'!

#### PEOPLE... ARE TALKING

Compiled by Joe Mirando  
[jmirando@streport.com](mailto:jmirando@streport.com)

Hidi ho friends and neighbors. It's been one heck of a week for me. First, I found out that a good friend's husband died late last week. She, of course, is a wreck and has turned to picking up the pieces and trying to cope with her loss. She needs the support of her friends right now, and I'm only too happy to help out. After all, that's what friends do for one another.

Second, I ended up getting one of those despicable little stomach

bugs. The kind that keeps you from feeling well or enjoying even a simple meal, but doesn't make you sick enough to stay home from work.

Third, I opened up my big mouth and offered to rebuild a '486 computer for a relative who wants to access the internet. Come to find out, it's not a '486. It's a '286 with a whopping 640K of memory (SIPPs that are soldered on to the motherboard). There's no way of upgrading this machine to be usable in any real way, so I've scrounged around and found a '486 that can be upgraded and used to surf the web. It ain't easy, but if it was easy it wouldn't be worth doing, would it? <smile>

Needless to say, this is not going to go down in my memoirs as a wonderful week for me. It's been one of those weeks where you feel just terrible and one half of your mind wants nothing more than to just feel bad for yourself, and the other half says, "What about your friend who needs you right now?" Of course there is no contest as to whether I or my friend have had the worse week, but there are times when you just want to retreat and take a little personal time. Of course, that is normally when you CAN'T take it, but that's the way it is, I guess.

I guess my reason for telling you this is so that you won't hold it against me if this week's column is quite a bit shorter than usual.

As always, email is not only appreciated, but replied to. Drop me a line if you've a mind to.

Now let's take a look at what's going on with the UseNet...

From the comp.sys.atari.st NewsGroup  
=====

Mark Simpson asks about attaching binary files to email in NEWSie:

"I tried to attach a binary file to e-mail i was sending to a freind. If I select "none" as the encoding choice, and then select edit, it tries to place the binary file in the editor as a text file, (which doesn't work). If I try to edit my mail first, and then attach an un-encoded binary file, I'm cant select a file to attach. If I try to send a binary file without any letter along with it (un-encoded), it tries to send it, and then during the sending process the program crashes (68000 exception). Is there a trick to this that I'm missing or what?"

Charles Silver tells Mark:

"Well, when you asked this question it caught me by surprise. Most who have NEWSie do this all the time, but I forgot exactly how I do it. To send a binary with NEWSie and you want it encoded by NEWSie you must check either UUE or MIME. If you just want to send the file with a message, type in the e-mail address, subject and click on either UUE or MIME and then click on the "attached file" to bring up the file selector. Find your binary and load it. THEN "Edit". Type in your message above the binary stuff, save it, and send it. This works for me. You can't send a binary file without encoding it, thus the crash. Other's may explain this better than me. If your text editor can't handle binaries, all bets are off..."

Roger Cain tells Mark:

"You cannot send binary over a mail channel as it contains non-printable characters which upset the server (as you've noticed}. The only time 'None' makes sense is if the Attached file is text only.

Do this:

At the first Post/Followup dialogue select MIME or UUE depending on the capability of the recipient. You will usually find that MIME is the best choice as not all PC systems can cope with UUE.

Click in 'Attached file@ to select the binary you want to send.

After filling in any other fields you require ckick 'Edit'. There will be a busy period during which the binary will be encoded and stuck in the message you want to send.

The mail including the encoded binary will then be dispalyed and you can stick any accompanying message at the beginning (preferably) or end.

Proceed as usual for 'Save', 'Quit', 'Queue/Send'."

Mark tells Roger:

"I guess I was accidentally doing it right the first time (by not selecting "none"), without knowing it. And I guess the webmaster at my ISP misunderstood my question. I thought I was clear.

So if I MIME files when I send them, recipients using PCs who don't understand what a MIME'ed file is, will be able to use them, as their browser will automatically interpret whats happening, and decode the file. Is this correct?

If not, being completely PC illiterate, what do I tell them to do?"

Roger replies:

"Errmm .. I'm not totally sure what happens at their end but at least PCs understand MIME. They may have to press a button to cause the decode to happen.

Perhaps someone else will say what actually happens on the PC but the recipient may need to say 'OK' to an 'Extract' or 'Decode' dialogue."

Alyre Chiasson asks about running programs meant to run on 'foreign' monitors:

"Is there a software fix that can correct for programs that roll on a 50 Mhz monitor because they were meant to output to a 60 Mhz monitor? The program "G05060" bomb on me when I do a reset. Any other options?"

Callum Lerwick tells Alyre:

"

I'm guessing your in the US... Hi there!

Short answer: Try tweaking the vertical sync (hold?) on the monitor...

Longer answer: What monitor are you using? What model 'strange grey box' for that matter... :) Both my SC1224's work fine in 50hz mode, but who knows, yours may need a tweak... Or are you using a TV? (yuck... :) I used to often hook up my STFM to various TV's for gaming. (MidiMaze lives!) But of course most American TV's don't like 50hz much. A slight nudge to the vsync always worked for me. Though on at least one, tweaking the knob just right to keep sync with Atari 50hz and 60hz, and\* regular TV broadcasts was a bit tricky...

As far as software goes, switching the refresh rate is got to be one of the simplest things to write... :) Just for fun I once wrote a lower border overscan thingy in pure GFA basic... I don't know what go5060 does exactly, but I don't know why it would crash your machine. Blame it on something else... :) If you want I'll email you the hz toggler I have. Its only 145 bytes... (I think I found it on Umich...) Or if your running games/demos that load from bootsector, look for DCbootit. (Umich :) It works great for getting that darn "Froggies over the Fence" demo to run..."

"Stephen" asks for help with 'sneakernet' transfers:

"I'm having difficulty using DD(720k) disks between my Win95 machine and my Atari. Both machines read the disks but the Atari will not access any files written by the Win95 machine. I use the Win95 machine to download Atari files and utilities."

Dave Gostl tells Stephen:

"Win95 writes something to the disk to make it take long file names. Even if you just read the disk under Win95. Do your transfers under DOS and you should be fine. Formatting under DOS is a good idea too. Just beware the Atari can't tell if the disk was changed or not with DOS formatted disks."

Nicholas Bales adds:

"You should format the disk on the PC. Do not use any folders or long filenames on the disk."

Try formatting and copying the files in DOS mode rather than Windows."

Cecil Westerhoff adds his own thoughts:

"In my experience you have to save the files under DOS. Not a DOS-box, but exit Windows (also with 3.x) and save it to floppy from there. If you do it otherwise there is something done with the FAT. Maybe a smart guy will write something to bypass it? It would be nicer to work with the filemanager."

Dennis Bishop asks:

"...does CAB support 'cookies'? one outfit that I log onto sends data to your cookie so you can input it at other places or they get it without you having to type it each time. I can get into a section I joined so far as cab doesn't seem to pass on the right data."

Steve Hammond tells Dennis:

"No - none of the current verisons of CAB (commerical or freeware) support cookies. CAB 2.7 (coming soon to an Atari dealer near you) is

suppose to and the latest CAB.OVL by Dan Ackerman has that support built in."

James Pirie asks for help with Papyrus, the word/document processor:

"I am stuck! I'm planning a move to Papyrus as my word/document processor from Pagestream, which is good but a little slow on the printing and screen updating side. I downloaded the Demo copy of Papyrus 5 from Hisoft' web page and started playing.

When I print out the results of my experimentations a very strange and frustrating thing is happening. Papyrus seems to randomly exchange the letter d for the letter b. There is no pattern or obvious reason for this but still it persists.

I am using a Falcon with Nemesis board, 14Mb RAM, MagiC V4, NVDI V4. I have tried it with a bare system (and Nemesis disabled) but the problem persists.

Anyone seen or heard of this one? It's a shame because Papyrus looks good!! It works really quickly and prints out about twice as fast as Pagestream with the added bonus of GDOS support."

Nicholas Bales tells James:

"I think that's a demo "feature", just to make it unusable enough while you can still test print quality and import features."

Robert Schaffner tells James:

"That's the feature of the demo release. The full release doesn't do that!"

Paal Monstad asks:

"Is it possible to connect an ISDN external box to the Falcon and TT? I intend to use this setup with ASH emailer, Iconnect and Cab 2.6."

Martin-Eric Racine tells Paal:

"It should be possible, at least on a TT. However, some providers might require an Ethernet card for this, in which case you'll need a Riebel Ethernet card for the TT."

Peter Rottengatter, the author of STinG, tells Paal (and Martin-Eric):

"For ISDN? You're kidding! Maybe you're confusing it with cable modems? For those you usually indeed need an ethernet adapter.

An external ISDN terminal adapter (no it's \*not\* a modem) can be fitted to any Atari machine. I definitely know STinG works well with it. That should be true for other stacks too."

\*\* Hmmm, an Atari running at ISDN speeds... THAT would be something to see.

Meanwhile, Chris Whitelock asks for help with CAB 2.5 and PPP Connect (Ash's dialer/PPP implementation):

"I've purchased and installed CAB 2.5 and PPP-Connect.



I'm confused - nowhere in the docs does it say that PPP-Connect only works with Magic, but I'm sure I've heard that somewhere?

I use Geneva & Neodesk. I have no problems connecting to my ISP using PPP-Connect BUT can't do anything after that! CAB does not seem to recognise the connection and if I run GET\_IP.PRG it never ever returns with an IP address and I have to reboot. [Yes, CAB.OVL is in the correct modules folder].

Anyone got any idea what the problem is?

Please?

(I have given up trying to get STing to log on, for the time being anyway).

By the way, I have a standard Falcon 4/84 TOS 4.04, plus external 1.4 gig h/disk.

Niall Morgan tells Chris:

"PPP connect does need magic i'm afraid. You will need to get STing up and running if you want to use CAB with geneva. STing is not much harder to set up than ppp connect and people here I'm sure will help you if needed."

Martin Byttebier jumps in and corrects Niall:

"Not true. PPP-connect \*doesn't\* need MagiC to work. If you've a pre-emptive multitasking system like for instance N.AES it should work. Geneva is a co-operative multitasking system but if you run MiNT on top of it you'll get a pre-emptive OS. Some time ago I was able to use PPP-connect with a Geneva/Thing/MiNT setup. Unfortunately for some dark reasons I can't use it anymore. Sure I can still make a connection but like Chris, CAB seems not to recognise the connection. I think you'll be better off with a Sting setup. Like Niall says it isn't that difficult to get STing up and running."

Well folks, that's it for this time around. I'm going to go swallow some Pepto and hope that I feel better instead of worse tomorrow. Be sure to tune in again next week, same time, same station, and be ready to listen to what they are saying when...

PEOPLE ARE TALKING

#### EDITORIAL QUICKIES

Tomorrow is June 06, 1998 - The Anniversary of Overlord.  
Many thanks to all the GIs that made it a success!

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